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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 08318 081511Z
41
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 INRE-00
NSCE-00 SAB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01
CU-02 /078 W
---------- 043581
O R 081400Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0001
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB PFOR PN PQ
SUBJECT: RALLY IN CANAL ZONE

SUMMARY: RALLY IN CANAL ZONE SPONSORED BY CENTRAL LABOR UNION-METAL TRADES COUNCIL (CLU-MTC) WAS HELD DECEMBER 7 WITH MUCH RHETORIC BUT WITHOUT INCIDENT; ATTENDANCE TOTALED 453. WILLIAM DRUMMOND INVITED THOSE PRESENT TO SIGN PETITION TO JOIN IN HIS PENDING SUIT TO SUSPEND CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, AND PROBABLY COLLECTED AROUND 300 NOTARIZED SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS TO THIS END. RHETORIC CONCENTRATED ON US EXECUTIVE BRANCH, PARTICULARLY STATE DEPARTMENT, WITH PANAMA MENTIONED BY ALLUSION, BUT NOT BY NAME. END SUMMARY.

1. RALLY IN CANAL ZONE SPONSORED BY CLU-MTC AT BEHEST OF WILLIAM DRUMMOND WAS HELD AT BALBOA STADIUM AT 1930 DECEMBER 7. CANAL ZONE POLICE COUNTED ATTENDANCE AT 453, OF WHICH PERHAPS 100-150 APPEARED TO HAVE COME FROM ATLANTIC SIDE FOR THE EVENT.

2. RALLY WAS INTRODUCED BY ALFRED GRAHAM, PRESIDENT OF CLU-MTC. OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDED MRS. PATRICIA FULTON, PRESIDENT, PACIFIC CIVIC COUNCILS; MRS. CHARLOTTE KENNEDY, PRESIDENT, MARGARITA CIVIC COUNCIL; AN INDIVIDUAL CANAL PILOT (PILOT'S UNION DID NOT FORMALLY PARTICIPATE IN RALLY; A REPRESENTATIVE OF CANAL ZONE
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 08318 081511Z

TEACHERS' UNION (LOCAL 29 AFT); AND DRUMMOND HIMSELF. SEPTEL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

FOLLOWS DETAILING OTHER UNIONS PRESENT WHICH DID NOT SPEAK,
AND DESCRIBING ASPECTS OF RALLY DIRECTLY REVELENT TO LABOR
MOVEMENT.

3. OF ALL SPEAKERS, ONLY PACIFIC CIVIC COUNCILS FAILED TO
EXPLICITLY FLAY STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PROCEEDING WITH TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS IN IMPROPER, UNLAWFUL AND (FOR SOME) ALMOST TREASONOUS
MANNER. PACIFIC CIVIC COUNCILS REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST
PUBLIC RALLY IN MARCH, INCLUDING PRESENTING VIEWS OF CANAL
ZONE RESIDENTS TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, TREATY NEGOTIATORS,
OTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS, ETC. SOME OF REMAINING
SPEAKERS REFERRED TO PARTICULAR ISSUES OF INTEREST (EG. TEACHERS
UNION TO ALLEGED ADVERSE EFFECTS ON US-CITIZEN TEACHERS' JOBS
FROM INTEGRATION OF LONG-SENIORITY PANAMANIAN TEACHERS INTO
US SCHOOL SYSTEM), BUT ALL INCLUDED AT LEAST SOME ATTACK ON
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

4. FINAL SPEAKER WAS DRUMMOND HIMSELF, WHO DESCRIBED HIS PENDING
SUIT IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT SEEKING TO ENJOIN CONTINUATION OF
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD SATISFIED WHAT
DRUMMOND CALLED REQUIRED CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING
PRIOR LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF US PROPERTY IN
CANAL ZONE, AND PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONALLY-GUARANTEED
FREEDOMS IN US BILL OF RIGHTS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT HERE
HE NOTED
THAT HEARING ON PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF CASE FIXED FOR DECEMBER
17, AND SAID HE INTENDED TO WIN THE SUIT "HERE --- OR UP NORTH".
HE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME SEEKING TO JUSTIFY HIS POSITION IN
LEGAL-ESE WHICH SOUNDED SUSPICOUSLY LIKE GIBBERISH, AND
CLOSED BY INVITING THOSE AT RALLY TO SIGN PETITIONS TO BECOME
CO-INTERVENORS WITH THE SIX MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAVE
PETITIONED TO INTERVENE IN HIS SUIT.

5. AFTER RALLY CLOSED (AT APPROXIMATELY 2100), IT APPEARED THAT
UP TO 300 PEOPLE STAYED TO SIGN PETITION; VOLUNTEER NOTARIES
PUBLIC WERE PRESENT TO AUTHENTICATE SIGNATURES.

6. RALLY ALSO INCLUDED PITCH FROM TEACHERS' UNION SPEAKER FOR
DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF "CANAL ZONE NON-PROFIT INFORMATION
COMMITTEE". SPEAKER SAID PRESIDENT OF CANAL ZONE TEACHERS' UNION
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WHILE IN WASHINGTON RECENTLY, HAD MET WITH PHILIP HARMAN, WHO
IS REPRESENTING THIS COMMITTEE THERE. HE GAVE A GLOWING ACCOUNT
OF HARMAN'S ALLEGEDLY-EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON OF
INTERESTS OF CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS.

7. COMMENT: ATTENDANCE AT THIS RALLY WAS FAR LOWER THAN THE
ESTIMATED 2000-3000 OR MORE WHO FILLED BALBOA STADIUM FOR EACH
OF THE THREE PUBLIC RALLIES HELD LAST SPRING, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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TO THE SICK-OUT OF SOME CANAL ZONE EMPLOYEES. THIS PROBABLY
CAME AS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE RALLY--
COMMENTS OVERHEARD IN THE AUDIENCE INDICATED IT WAS DISAPPOINTING
TO MANY OF THOSE PRESENT. ATTENDANCE WAS CUT BY NONPARTICIPATION
AND NONSUPPORT FROM MANY LABOR UNIONS, AND PUBLICIZED INDICATION
IN PANCANAL LETTER APPROVING USE OF STADIUM, WHICH APPEARED IN
DECEMBER 7 MORNING AND AFTERNOON PANAMA CITY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE
PRESS) OF CONSIDERABLE FEELING IN COMMUNITY AND PANCANAL
OFFICIAL CIEW THAT RALLY WAS INADVISABLE. WHILE NOT SMALL ENOUGH
TO INDICATEOPEN AND WIDESPREAD PUBLIC REPUDIATION OF
DRUMMOND AND HIS APPROACH TO THEIR PROBLEMS, WE FEEL THAT
THE RALLY GIVES AT LEAST AN INDICATION OF THE REAL STRENGTH
OF THE IDEOLOGICALLY-COMMITTEDN STEREOTYPICALLY "ZONIAN"
SEGMENT OF THE CANAL ZONE AMERICAN-CITIZEN COMMUNITY. THIS
SEGMENT TURNED OUT IN CONSIDERABLE FORCE--- AND FAILED
TO TURN OUT NEARLY AS MANY AS THE MORE BROADLY-BASED AND LESS
POLITICIZED RALLIES HELD PREVIOUSLY ON PURELY EMPLOYEE ISSUES.

IM DURING ALL OF THEIR STATEMENTS, SPEAKERS RODE HARD ON
REQUIREMENT THAT EXECUTIVE PROTECT "HUMAN RIGHTS" GUARANTEED
TO AMERICANS BY US CONSTITUTION. MOST CONSIDERED THAT SUCH
PROTECTION WOULD DISAPPEAR IF KISSINGER-TACK DECLARATION
OF PRINCIPLES POINT RELATING TO JURISDICTION IN CANAL ZONE WERE
IMPLEMENTED. BUT NO SPEAKER MADE ANY REFERENCE BY NAME TO
PANAMA OR TO ITS GOUVERNMENT; THEY CONCENTRATED THEIR RHETORICAL
FIRE ON THE USG, PRIMARILY THE EXECUTIVE AND SPECIFICALLY
THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT
TO MINIMIZE CRITICISM OF OR POTENTIAL REACTION TO RALLY FROM
WITHIN PANAMA. WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL SUCCEED IN DOING SO, ALTHOUGH
LOCAL REACTION WILL PROBABLY BE SOMEWHAT TEMPERED BY RELATIVELY
LOW TURNOUT. EMBASSY WILL REPORT REACTION TO RALLY IN REPUBLIC
SEPTEL. END COMMENT.
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PAGE 04 PANAMA 08318 081511Z

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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